UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/865
S/1997/288
8 April 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Agenda item 58
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 26 March 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 20 March 1997.

On 20 March 1997, at 0900 hours and 1114 hours, two Turkish military planes, a C-130 and a C-160, flew over the monastery of Ayios Andreas, violating the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and the Nicosia flight information region, and then exited from Solin Point heading in a south-easterly direction. At 1240 and 1435 hours, the two military aircraft re-entered the FIR of Nicosia from Solin Point and violated the airspace of the Republic, flying over the monastery of Ayios Andreas, and headed in a northerly direction.

Furthermore, on 19 March 1997, a Turkish military aircraft from 1242 to 1330 hours, and two F-16s from 1810 to 1857 hours, both taking part in the Turkish military exercises of Dogú Akdeniz/97, violated the FIR of Nicosia.

Such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the airspace of the Republic are in violation of international air traffic rules and seriously endanger civil aviation flights over Cyprus. At the same time, they heighten tension in Cyprus and are in contravention of the provisions of repeated Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, which state that such overflights increase political tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest against the new violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, which are in complete disregard of the Charter of the

United Nations and the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nicos AGATHOCLEOUS
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Cyprus
to the United Nations